

better not only individual lives, but our community as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I ask this 107th Congress to join me in offering our praise and accolades to the Make-Up Designory and its founders.

INTRODUCTION OF "HEATHER FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT", H.R. 936

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act. This important legislation establishes a national goal of ending homelessness among our nation's veterans within a decade. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe if 40 years ago we as a nation had the resolve and resources to send men to the moon and return them safely to Earth within a decade, today our great nation can end homelessness among veterans with adequate resolve and resources within ten years.

The measure I introduced today for myself, and almost 100 of my colleagues, is named to recognize and honor Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000. During her year of service to America, Heather French Henry committed the full measure of her time, talents and energy to addressing the needs of homeless veterans. She was our national conscience, calling on us to do more, to do enough to help veterans escape the prison of homelessness. She encouraged homeless veterans to break free from their chains of homelessness. She seems to be everywhere at once advocating for our homeless veterans. Homeless veterans have no better friend and voice.

If we consider how much one young woman accomplished during her year of service as Miss America on behalf of our nation's homeless veterans, there can be no doubt this nation can end homelessness among veterans within a decade. If our nation demonstrates the care, compassion, and fidelity to ending homelessness among veterans as Heather French Henry did during her year of service as Miss America, a decade from now there will be no homelessness among veterans.

The end of veteran homelessness and prompt action on the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act are a high priority for many. These goals are strongly supported, for example, by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans and its hundreds of member organizations throughout the nation who daily provide essential services to homeless veterans. I am also pleased the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council which represents many major military and veterans service organizations strongly supports the legislation I am introducing today.

Homelessness is a complex problem for which there is no "quick fix." Homeless veterans are likely to face more than one serious challenge. They are more likely to have seri-

ous chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, significant chronic illnesses or disease, to lack the social networks that help most of us through our difficulties and to lack job and even basic living skills. The programs provided by the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act addresses these problems with comprehensive solutions.

Programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in assisting homeless veterans should be expanded. Better coordination among the services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and those offered by other federal, state and local agencies is also needed. Support for private-sector programs serving homeless veterans must be affirmed. We must also make full use of leading experts to enrich current services to homeless veterans and assess program effectiveness and develop needed innovations. A new VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and an effective federal interagency taskforce on homeless are important parts of the solution.

Many programs provided or funded by VA have demonstrated their effectiveness. Mental health professionals agree, for example, that placement in the community can work, but only with careful monitoring and support of vulnerable populations. This legislation creates incentives for VA to make these services—called Mental Health Intensive Community Management programs—more widely available to veterans with serious mental illness.

Supportive, therapeutic housing is necessary for a veteran's recovery from substance abuse. These "safe havens" must be provided and available to help a veteran in transition from homelessness to a more rewarding life. Community-based providers and more VA domiciliaries are needed to help meet the needs for transitional housing. Comprehensive services for homeless veterans must be more available in our major metropolitan areas to assure that veterans receive services in addition to full information about resources available to them. In our nation's Capital veterans have neither a VA domiciliary nor a comprehensive homeless veterans service program. Both are clearly needed now.

Community-based organizations must receive more assistance to achieve the goal of ending homelessness among veterans. VA's Homeless Grant and Per Diem Providers are a critical source of support to the mission of caring for our nation's homeless veterans. Community-based providers use a collaborative approach to funding and caring for homeless veterans—many of the programs draw from a complex array of funding streams. The cost of caring for veterans is often subsidized by the other funding sources from local, state, and private entities these

VA can and must do more to establish formal agreements with other agencies in and outside of the government in order to ensure that various agencies carefully coordinate services to ensure that veterans at risk of homelessness do not become homeless. The Departments of Defense, Labor and VA cooperatively provide a Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) for servicemembers who are about to be discharged from the military. This cooperative program could be a model for vet-

erans who are leaving penal institutions or hospital settings. VA should work with a variety of community and other government programs to ensure a safety net is in place.

Finally, my bill advocates a small demonstration program to offer transitional assistance to veterans making the very difficult transition from institutionalization to independent living. These veterans must be provided every chance possible to make it on their own. A one-time, limited grant will provide our veterans a better opportunity to obtain work and housing and avoid becoming homeless and living on the nation's streets.

Mr. Speaker, a member of my staff recently visited a program in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she was told that VA staff can "usually" find a bed for a dying homeless veteran within his or her last week of life. As a nation, we should be outraged and shamed by this treatment of men and women who have served our nation in uniform. Surely we owe our veterans more. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting homeless veterans on their path to recovery and their full integration into mainstream society to the extent possible. Join me by supporting the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act.

TAX CREDIT FOR WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of the House a measure that has been introduced to extend the current, and very important, tax credit for wind energy production (the PTC) until the year 2007.

I introduced this legislation with my Ways and Means colleagues JERRY WELLER, BOB MATSUI and KAREN THURMAN—as well as JIM MCCRERY, ROB PORTMAN, WES WATKINS, and JIM RAMSTAD—because of the pressing need to get this issue addressed. If we do not extend the credit, the current PTC will expire at the end of the year—a situation that would deliver a stunning setback to a form of alternative energy development that is needed more now than ever, given our growing energy difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, wind energy production credit was originally enacted under the bipartisan Energy Policy Act of 1992 and has enjoyed strong, bipartisan support every since. In fact, during the 106th Congress, 197 House members cosponsored H.R. 750 to extend the credit.

What the credit itself does is to provide an inflation-adjusted 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour credit for electricity produced with wind power equipment. The credit is only available if the wind energy equipment is located in the United States and electricity is generated and sold by a U.S. taxpayer.

There should be no question, given the current domestic energy crisis, that the need for